

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00956 051409Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4433

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 956

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: UN, JO, IS

SUBJECT: WALDHEIM ME VISIT; URQUHART COMMENTS

SUMMARY: URQUHART, UN SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL WITH WLADHEIM PARTY, TOLD US AFTER CONCLUSION OF VISIT THAT HE THOUGHT IT HAD BEEN WORTHWHILE BUT HAD NOT REVEALED ANY NEW OPENING FOR MOVEMENT. SYG HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED EVERYWHERE. URQUHART WAS SURPRISED THAT PALESTININAS HAD MADE SO LITTLE EFFORT TO PRESENT CASE TO WALDHEIM. AS TO FUTURE, HE THOUGHT JARRING WOULD BE KEPT IN PLAY FOR SOME TIME.

1. WE HAVE TALKED WITH BRIAN URQUHART AND UNTSO POLITICAL ADVISER GORGE ABOUT WALDHEIM ME VISIT. URQUHART, UN SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED SYG, LEFT PARTY AFTER AMMAN STOP FOR VISIT TO UNTSO IN JERUSALEM. FOLLOWING ARE URQUHART'S IMPRESSIONS.

2. URQUHART SAID HE HAD ORIGINALLY OPPOSED SYG ME VISIT, SINCE IT WAS LIKELY TO LEAD TO NOTHING CONCRETE, BUT HE NOW FELT IT HAD BEEN USEFUL. HE THOUGHT EACH GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN GENUINELY GLAD TO WELCOME WALDHEIM, THOUGH OF COURSE FOR THEIR OWN VARYING

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 JERUSA 00956 051409Z

REASONS. ARABS SAW IT AS A WAY TO KEEP BALL ROLLING, AND THIS WAS DESIRABLE FROM UN POINT OF VIEW AS WELL. HE WAS UNDER NO

ILLUSION, HOWEVER, THAT VISIT WOULD LEAD TO SETTLEMENT. ACCORDING TO GORGE, URQUHART TOLD HIM HE HAD SEEN NO GLIMMER OF AN PENING DURING THE MANY DISCUSSIONS ON THE TRIP.

3. URQUHART ADDED TO ACCOUNTS OF ISRAELI TALKS REPORTED ELSEWHERE THAT SYG BROUGHT UP WITH GOLDA MEIR ISRAELI HIJACKING OF MEA AIRPLANE. HE RECEIVED STANDARD RESPONSE THAT ACTION COUND NOT BE JUDGED IN ISOLATION FROM BACKGROUND, AT WHICH POINT URQUHART ELICITED SHARP REJOINDER BY COMMENTING THAT ONE COULD NOT STOP THERE IN TRACING MOTIVATION, BUT BY SAME TOKEN HAD TO EXAMINE BACKGROUND OF ARAB TERRORISM.

4. URQUHART SAID WALDHEIM'S TWO GAFFS IN JERUSALEM, HOWEVER UNFORTUNATE IN ISRAEL, HAD BEEN MONEY IN THE BANK IN ARAB WORLD. ZAYATT HAD MET SYG WITH COMMENT THAT WALDHEIM NOW KNEW WHAT ARABS HAD TO PUT UP WITH IN DEALING WITH ISRAELIS. EGYPTIANS ALSO PLEASED THAT SYG HAD HAD TO ISSUE STATEMENT ON JERUSALEM.

5. CAIRO STOP, IN OTHER RESPECTS, AS "STATELY MINUET"

WITHOUT MUCH SERIOUS SUBSTANCE, HE SAID. HE WAS NONETHELESS IMPRESSED WITH MODERATION OF SADAT'S PRESENTATION. LATTER HAD SAID THAT, SO LONG AS EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY IN SINAI WAS RECOGNIZED, HE WAS VERY FLEXIBLE ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE SECURITY OF AREA. HE LISTED NUMBER OF POSSIBLE DEVICES, INCLUDING US/SOVIET POLICING FORCE AND A UN FORCE TIED TO SECURITY COUNCIL (AND HENCE NOT SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL AT EGYPTIAN REQUEST). URQUHART QUOTED ZAYATT AS SAYING SADAT HAD GONE BEYOND EGYPTIAN POSITION IN THIS RESPECT.

6. URQUHART REMARKED THAT SYG HAD SEEN RELATIVELY LITTLE OF PALESTINIANS. HE (URQUHART) HAD SUGGESTED IN BOTH SYRIA AND LEBANON THAT THEY SEE REFUGEES, BUT NEITHER GOVERNMENT APPEARED WANT ANY PART OF THAT. THEY DID SEE UNWRA STAFF MEMBERS IN BEIRUT AND FOUND THEM IMPRESSIVE. JORDAN WAS ONLY PLACE WHERE SYG SAW CAMP REFUGEES DIRECTLY. ONLY DIRECT REQUEST FOR MEETING FROM WEST BANKER DURING ISRAEL STOP (AS DISTINCT FROM PETITIONS) HAD BEEN LAST-MINUTE MESSAGE FROM FORMER NABLUS MAYOR HAMDI CANA'AN, WHICH CAME TOO LATE. URQUHART EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT
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PAGE 03 JERUSA 00956 051409Z

PALESTINIANS HAD NOT COME FORWARD TO PRESS THEIR CASE.

7. ACCORDING TO GORGE, URQUHART'S ASSESSMENT OF UN HANDLING OF ME PROBLEM IN WAKE OF VISIT WAS SIMPLY THAT JARRING MISSION WOULD BE KEPT IN PLAY FOR SOME TIME YET.
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